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WEATHER BULLETIN.

WASHINGTON, June 9.—For Lower Michigan: Fair, except showers south; warmer, except cooler southeast; westerly winds becoming variable.

STILL A MYSTERY.

Six men, constituting a coroner's jury, declare that Dora Velzy shot William Gray and then herself. The verdict is simply a plausible theory, and is wholly unsupported by the evidence. It is based almost entirely upon the letter which purports to be in the handwriting of the dead girl, but of the genuineness of which there are many grave doubts.

The letter is written on paper entirely unlike any the dead girl was accustomed to use. The father, who is more familiar with her handwriting than anybody else, declined to say that it was hers. To make the letter competent evidence upon which to base a verdict it must be shown by affirmative proof that it was in the handwriting of the deceased. There is no such proof in the evidence. The fact that the letter is written on paper unlike any she was accustomed to use is strongly presumptive proof that she did not write it. To guess that she wrote it because it contained matters that would furnish a clue to the motive is the only theory upon which the jury can justify its verdict.

To make a case against Dora Velzy the plain duty of the police department was to ferret out her whereabouts on the day and evening before the crime was committed. Its failure to do this is inexplicable. She must have been somewhere, and somebody must have known where. Why has this important detail escaped attention?

In the next place, in order to make a case against Dora Velzy, it must be shown that she secured the revolver used. She certainly had a revolver, if she did the shooting. She could not have secured it except through somebody who owned it. Where did she get it? Whose revolver was it? How did it have four chambers loaded and one empty? Nobody has undertaken to answer these questions, but the jury hastens to find a verdict against the dead girl.

THE HERALD does not believe the verdict is a true one because it has no sufficient evidence to support it. There is nothing in the circumstances of the case to forbid the theory that a third party did the shooting. There are circumstances in the case, withheld from the public on the examination, which are equally as compatible with the theory of Dora Velzy's innocence as the unpurged note is compatible with the theory of her guilt.

The mystery is not yet solved. The coroner's verdict is worth no more than any man's off-hand opinion. It is a crystallization of the first and only theory exploited. The police ought to furnish the missing links to complete the case against Dora Velzy. Until it is known where and how she got the revolver the mystery will remain as profoundly insoluble as it was when the black and bloodied bodies were discovered in Gray's room.

ANOTHER HOMESTEAD.

Strikers and employers waged a cruel and bloody war upon each other at the Chicago drainage ditch yesterday, and half a score of lives have been needlessly sacrificed.

While the sheriffs of Cook, DuPage and Will counties were discussing the question of protecting the men at work, two armed mobs of strikers were permitted to organize and attack the laborers. The assault was not a spontaneous movement. Trouble has been brewing for several days, and the sheriffs were confident that unless something was done to prevent, there would be bloodshed and slaughter.

Notwithstanding this alarming condition of affairs the men who were sworn to preserve peace at any cost, coolly sat in an office in Chicago and discussed the question of asking aid from the governor. While they were conducting their symposium, armed bands of men were shooting each other down, only a few miles from the city. Not since the Homestead battle has there been such a reckless and criminal indifference in the part of county officials to the value of human life.

Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the strike, yesterday's attack was a savage and barbarous assault without the shadow of a justification, and the responsibility for the awful crime rests with the sheriffs who so unreasonably neglected their sworn duty.

JURY TRIALS.

When an indictment runs a jury he invariably presumes at this thought of the possible result of his trial. When a guilty man stands in the dock he confidently weighs his chances of a dis-

SMITH ON PENSIONS.

EDITOR GRAND RAPIDS HERALD:—The late pension order of the secretary of the interior is causing many pensioners a great deal of needless anxiety, as its exact scope is not understood. As I have so many inquiries concerning it, I will, with your kind permission, explain to the best of my ability, in as few words as possible, what it means.

The act of June 27, 1902, known as the "New Law," reads as follows:

"All persons who served ninety days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the war of the rebellion, and who have been honorably discharged therefrom, and who are now or who may hereafter be suffering from a mental or a physical disability of a permanent character, not the result of their own vicious habits, which incapacitates them from the performance of manual labor in such a degree as to render them unable to earn a support shall, upon making due proof of the fact according to such rules and regulations as the secretary of the interior may provide, be placed upon the list of invalid pensioners of the United States, and be entitled to receive a pension not to exceed \$12 per month, and not less than \$6 per month, proportioned to the degree of inability to earn support."

A careful study of this law will show that it is quite limited in its application. It is limited to support being given by the government. No true soldier or patriot can ask that the commissioner of pensions exceed the authority given him by law in issuing pensions. No true soldier will accept the generous bounty of the government when he knows he has no legal claim to it. No true soldier or patriot will do otherwise than demand that such pensioners be stricken from the rolls.

The only question there that concerns us, is the secretary's rendered illegal decision? The soldier whose pension he ordered revoked, it appears, was not incapacitated from the performance of manual labor at all, very slight deafness being his only disability. It seems clear that according to the act of June 27, 1902, he was not entitled to any pension, and the secretary's decision was entirely just.

Now, as I understand it, the commissioner of pensions has ordered a careful examination of all pensions issued under this act, to see whether the law has been violated in other cases. This is a very proper thing to do, why should we not at it? Here is a plain law, so plain that it would seem to intelligent men could find to understand it. Until its provisions have been violated none but an unreasoning partisan will allow his prejudice or passion to lead him into unjust denunciations.

Now, as the law recognizes degrees of inability to earn support, a soldier does not need to be totally disabled, but there must be some inability. If Secretary Smith has ruled that a claimant must be totally unable to earn a support, he has certainly exceeded his authority and his ruling will not stand. I cannot believe the pension department purposes to revoke the pension of any pensioner who is legally entitled to it. I do not believe any worthy pensioner needs to be alarmed. I do not see anything in the ruling as published that is open to criticism, and we will do well to calm our fears and eschew detractions until we have something more tangible to base them on.

I may add, this late ruling does not affect claims under the old law; neither does it affect the pensions of widows, minors, children or dependent parents issued under new law; it simply relates to soldiers who are drawing pensions under new law. It will, of course, affect the voting of claims which may hereafter be allowed, but we have as yet no reason for believing that any worthy applicant will be refused a pension which is legally due him.

CHARLES K. GIBSON.

DEMAND FOR TURNSTILES.

EDITOR GRAND RAPIDS HERALD:—It is very evident to any one going out and coming to and from Reed's Lake on the cars that there will be serious accidents to some of the patrons of the Consolidated Street railroad before the end of the season unless Mr. Chapman will enclose the terminal, construct pens and put men in charge of turnstiles at entrance in order to regulate the crowd. No more passengers should be allowed on the platform than the cars will hold. As it is now the men surround an approaching train and jump on before the passengers occupying seats have an opportunity to vacate. This state of affairs is dangerous in the extreme. Ladies with children and feeble elderly people are compelled to enter the cars at risk of life and limb, and the unfortunates who are crowded out of the cars are forced to stand on the platform, and are liable to be run over by the cars.

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